

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—October 20, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 20, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG BEREUTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rabbi Robert J. Orkand, Temple Israel, Westport, Connecticut, offered the following prayer:

Let us pause in reverence before the gift of self, a gift freely given by God, the Creator. Let us pause in reverence before the mystery of the presence, the near and far reality of God. Let us pause in reverence before the gift of human purpose by which we would approach the mystery of God with deeds. Let us pause in reverence before the gift of life and the meaning of our being in this nexus of time's history. Let there be a divine reason for our presence so that the lives we touch may know a goodness and the days we live may be brighter for our compassion. And if our names be forgotten by those we serve, then at least may our works evoke an eternal amen.

And let faith be to us life and joy, let it be a voice of renewing challenge to the best we have and may be; let faith be for us a dissatisfaction with things that are; let faith bid us serve more eagerly the true and the right. Let faith be the sorrow that opens for us the way of sympathy, understanding and service to suffering humanity. Let faith be to us the wonder and lure of that which is only partly known and understood. Let it be an awe in the glories of nature's majesty and beauty and a heart that rejoices in deeds of kindness and of courage. Let our faith be for us hope and purpose and the discovery of opportunities to express our best through our daily tasks, both large and small. And let us say, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPPS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2841. An act to amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdictions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 974. An act to establish a program to afford high school graduates from the District of Columbia the benefits of in-State tuition at State colleges and universities outside the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1652. An act to designate the Old Executive Office Building located at 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in Washington, District of Columbia, as the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

WELCOME TO RABBI ROBERT ORKAND

(Mr. SHAYS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to welcome Rabbi Robert Orkand and to thank him for his special opening prayer this morning.

It is also my pleasure to be given this opportunity to share this great man and community leader with my colleagues. For a quarter of a century Rabbi Orkand has been a source of wisdom, inspiration, and pride to his family, wife Joyce and son Seth, friends, congregation, and the larger community in which he lives. From Miami, Florida; to Rockford, Illinois; to Westport, Connecticut, his commitment to education, activism, and religious pluralism have benefited the lives of so many.

Rabbi Orkand's energy and compassion are testament to his dedication and to all that he believes and cherishes. On a national level, he is currently chair of the National Commission on Jewish Education of the Reform Movement, co-chair of the Rabbinic Cabinet of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, and a member of the Executive Board of the Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal. And locally he is a member of the Human Services Commission of the Town of Westport and has served as past president of the United Way, a member of the Board of Directors of the United Jewish Appeal Federation, and president of the Westport-Weston Clergy Association. Rabbi Orkand has coauthored three prayer books for children, "Gates of Wonder", "Gates of Awe", and "A Child's Haggadah."

This House salutes Rabbi Orkand for his dedication to duty and his love of God and humanity. He has left a wonderful mark on his congregation and all the communities he has touched over the years. Rabbi Orkand is a man of God and a true healer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

MOTHER NATURE IS WARNING US—WE SHOULD LISTEN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, "Shake Rattle and Roll" may be the words of a famous rock and roll tune, but it is also Mother Nature pointing her finger and writing on the wall. Because less than just 1 week ago last Saturday, Mother Nature sent a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rolling through the western United States. Its epicenter was just about 100 miles east of Los Angeles, but this powerful quake made its way quickly to Las Vegas, derailing a train, and passing through and over Yucca Mountain, the proposed site to bury the Nation's most deadly toxic substance, nuclear waste.

Mr. Speaker, this quake shook Las Vegas with a 5.0- plus magnitude by the time it reached Las Vegas, and it was felt 100 miles away from the earthquake's epicenter. Mother Nature is pointing her finger at this country urging us to stop the nuclear waste lobbyists from sticking the deadliest wastes known to man into one of man's most seismically active areas of the country.

Mr. Speaker, this latest earthquake is yet another sign that Yucca Mountain is not the right place to store nuclear waste. Let us tell Mother Nature that we have heard her loud and clear. Let us stop the Yucca Mountain project. Mother knows best.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AMERICA'S TEAM, THE ATLANTA BRAVES

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate the Atlanta Braves, America's team. I wish Bobby Cox and all the members of the Braves family the very best in their great nonviolent struggle against the New York Yankees.

I say this morning: Braves, go Braves. Go and win. You must win. When you win, America wins. Go Braves. Go Braves.

PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ALZHEIMER'S

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, have you ever put down your car keys and just 1 hour later forgotten where you left them? Have you ever forgotten the answer to the question for what you had for lunch yesterday? Well, fortunately, most everyone has experienced this very common type of forgetfulness. But imagine a person finding their car keys and forgetting what they are used for. Persons suffering with Alzheimer's Disease suffer similar memory losses. And as the disease pro-

gresses, forgetfulness can become more destructive. Alzheimer's affects approximately 4 million Americans now, and experts predict that about 8 to 10 million will suffer from Alzheimer's by the year 2020.

By stating that he was beginning the journey that would lead him into the sunset of his life, former President and Republican revolutionary Ronald Reagan announced to the world just 5 years ago that he too has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Ronald Reagan felt it necessary to share this disclosure with those he loved most, the American people. As valiantly as Ronald Reagan, my colleagues, I am sure, will promote greater public awareness about the disease of Alzheimer's.

WAR ON DRUGS IS A JOKE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the governor of New Mexico says, and I quote, "America has lost the war on drugs. It is time to legalize drugs." Think about it. Cocaine and heroin, legal. Eleven- and 12-year-olds strung out.

This is a joke. While our drug czar worries about Olympic athletes, our borders are wide open, literally tons of heroin and cocaine flooding our streets, and now politicians are calling for legalization of narcotics.

Beam me up. This is not a war on drugs; this is absolute surrender. I yield back all the catchy, get-tough, rah-rah, gung-ho slogans of America's great charade on drugs.

DEMOCRATS TRY TO FRACTURE REPUBLICANS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday and for the past week the folks on this side of the aisle, the Democrats, have said the Republicans are going to take money from the Social Security Trust Fund to balance the budget.

Now, CBO, of course, issued a letter to the Speaker of the House on October 1, 1999 saying this was not true. Yet we have the Democrats continuing to say the opposite.

Now we have in the Associated Press an interesting quotation. The Democrats admit a raid on Social Security. "Privately, some Democrats say a final budget deal that uses some of the pension program's surpluses would be a political victory for them, because it would fracture the GOP by infuriating conservatives." That was October 19, 1999.

The bottom line is that Democrats are using this whole thing of Social Se-

curity as a political gimmick. They are politicizing this whole process because they are trying to fracture Republicans. The bottom line is Republicans are not going to raid the Social Security Trust Fund.

APPROPRIATION BILLS NEED TO BE ON THE FLOOR

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is amazing to follow my colleague from Florida, because once again we are seeing where the Republican leadership's values are. According to the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, they are already borrowing \$13 billion more in Social Security dollars than they have available. Thirteen billion more in Social Security dollars.

But my concern this morning is that we have not even talked about the education funding. We have not even got to Labor-HHS yet. It is estimated that education could be reduced as much as \$16 billion, and yet the Republicans are already borrowing more than \$13 billion from Social Security before we have even gotten to education.

Education is the number one issue for most people in this country. They want more money put into it, not less. Yet what we are seeing is that we have not even gotten to one of the appropriation bills on the floor and they are still \$13 billion in the hole on Social Security. That is what bothers me, and I think it bothers a lot of people in this country. I think they should get their appropriations bills all lined up so we can look at them, instead of holding education funding till the last so they can use education as an ATM machine.

PRESIDENT IS NOW ON BOARD WITH REPUBLICANS

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we have not spent one dime of the Social Security surplus. And in Kansas, there is a saying, "Don't change horses in the middle of the stream." There is a reason for that. If one did try to change horses, he could run the unnecessary risk of falling into the river and possibly drowning.

That is exactly what the President has done. In the middle of the stream of spending bills that we have, the President has gotten off the horse he had during his State of the Union speech, where he said he would spend 40 percent of the Social Security surplus, on to the horse the Republicans have been riding when we said we will not spend one dime of the Social Security Trust Fund.